

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented): A method in a client computer for collecting product data, comprising the computer implemented steps of:

generating a profile identifying a given site URL, an item to be queried, and a scan interval;

on a periodic basis as defined by the scan interval, retrieving data from the given site URL; and

parsing the retrieved data according to a site template to generate a data record comprising an item name and an associated price value.

2. (Original): The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of storing the data record.

3. (Original): The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of:

comparing the associated price data to a given threshold condition; and

taking a given action if the price data has a given relationship to the given threshold condition.

4. (Original): The method as described in Claim 3 wherein the given action is selected from the actions consisting essentially of issuing an e-mail notification, logging an event, and initiating an e-commerce transaction.

5. (Original): The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of collecting associated price data for the item name over a given period of time to produce historical price data.

6. (Previously Presented): The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the profile includes matching criteria that must be met for the item name.

7. (Original): The method as described in Claim 7 wherein the matching criteria is an exact match.

8. (Original): The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the matching criteria is a fuzzy match.

9. (Original): The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the data record also includes secondary source information.

10. (Previously Presented): A method, in a client computer, of collecting product data, comprising the steps of:

generating a set of product profiles, each identifying a given site URL, a list of one or more included items to be queried, a scan interval, and a site template;

for a given product profile, periodically retrieving data from the given site URL according to the scan interval;

parsing the data retrieved from the given site URL according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item comprising an item name, an associated price value, and a secondary source; and

storing the data records.

11. (Original): The method as described in Claim 10 wherein the given product profile also includes a list of excluded items.

12. (Original): The method as described in Claim 10 wherein the given product profile also includes a next scan date.

13. (Original): The method as described in Claim 12 wherein the given product profile also includes a threshold expression comprising a set of one or more triggers.

14. (Currently Amended): The method as described in Claim 13 wherein the given product profile also includes a threshold action that is triggered if the threshold expression resolves to a given value.

~~No fees are believed to be required. If, however, any fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.~~

15-20. (Canceled)